



World TB Day Intensive Case Finding campaign in Bareilly, Uttar Pradesh

## World TB Day Campaign Yields Results

To mark World TB Day 2016, Vihaan organised a campaign from 14th March to 7th April to intensify the identification of TB cases among PLHIV and their families. At all 362 Vihaan Care & Support Centres (CSCs), support group meetings and counselling sessions focused on HIV-TB co-infection. Officials of the Government's Revised National TB Control Programme were oriented on the HIV-TB collaborative activities carried out by Vihaan, and they provided whole-hearted support and shared our efforts widely among TB functionaries and facilities.

**40,000** PLHIV were screened for TB symptoms during the campaign, of whom **4,828** were referred for testing. **2,944** (61%) of total referrals were found to be TB-positive, including **75** extra-pulmonary cases. Screening included **766** PLHIV from key populations, of whom **177** were referred for testing and **23** were found TB-positive.

We applaud all Vihaan teams across the country for this significant achievement in addressing HIV-TB co-infection.



Ms. Yashashree Gurjar, Vice President of CSR, Avantha Group with Mr. Manoj Pardeshi from NMP+ at the signing of the MOU for this initiative.



Inmates and staff gather for the HIV-TB camp at the Central Jail in Patiala, Punjab

## Corporate Partners Support PLHIV Wellbeing

The Avantha Group is funding an ART Centre in Chandrapur, Maharashtra, through a Public Private Partnership. Their programme covers not just employees and their families but other PLHIV from the local area as well. As there was no CSC attached to this ART Centre, clients had to travel to the CSC that serves the ART Centre at the District Hospital in Chandrapur.

After advocacy by the Network of Maharashtra for PLHIV (NMP+), the Avantha Group agreed to establish its own CSC in their ART Centre to directly serve PLHIV registered there. Avantha will provide financial support to run the CSC, and NMP+ will provide technical oversight.

We congratulate the NMP+ team for this great achievement!

## HIV-TB Awareness at Patiala's Central Jail

On 30<sup>th</sup> March as a part of the Vihaan's World TB Day 2016 campaign, the CSC in Patiala organised an HIV-TB awareness camp in the Central Jail. CSC staff sensitised prisoners about HIV-TB co-infection, diet management, and living with HIV. The interactive session provided a forum for discussing HIV-TB co-infection and highlighted the importance of follow-up tests and completing treatment. The camp saw full participation from prison officers, management, medical staff, and inmates. Building on the success of the camp, the CSC is planning to conduct an HIV testing and TB screening camp at the jail in the coming month.

## Hidden but Not Undetectable

Mr. Biju, a registered client of the Vihaan CSC run by KTDNP+ in Kottayam, Kerala, was diagnosed with HIV three years back and is currently on ART. He is the sole breadwinner for his wife and their two children. When screened for TB symptoms at the CSC, Biju noted blurred vision and redness in his eyes, though he did not have any of the four common TB symptoms.



Concerned about Biju, KTDNP+ staff accompanied him to the ART Centre and later to the Ophthalmology Department of the Medical College Hospital. In spite of the detailed investigation conducted, his ailments could not be diagnosed.

At the CSC's suggestion, Biju went to a private hospital in Madurai, where he was diagnosed with ocular TB. With his diagnosis in hand, the CSC staff linked Biju again with the Medical College Hospital for treatment. The CSC also ensured that Biju received monthly financial support of Rs.1,000 provided by the state government to all PLHIV as well as a one-time government payment of Rs.5,000 for TB patients. Biju successfully completed his treatment and is now cured of TB.

Extra-pulmonary TB is common among PLHIV. Early detection and treatment is key to avoid life-threatening illness. Vihaan gives special focus on identifying all types of TB in PLHIV.

*A case report from the Kottayam District Network of PLHIV (KTDNP+) in Kerala. (Names have been changed to maintain confidentiality.)*

## Vihaan Updates

**957,286** PLHIV reached with care & support services

**346,878** PLHIV and family members linked with social protection schemes

**164,917** Lost-to-Follow-Up PLHIV tracked and returned to ART services  
(through March 2016)

